

DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC) -
Doc. EX.CL/1257(XXXVIII)

The Executive Council,

1. **TAKES NOTES** of the Report of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
2. **COMMENDS** the Committee for the work done in monitoring the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and thanks all those members whose terms of office ends in February 2021 for serving the Committee with dedication and loyalty.
3. **APPRECIATES** Member States for the measures they have undertaken in commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the African Children's Charter.
4. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to assess the implementation of the Charter at country level; undertake legislative audits to harmonize national laws and policies with the provisions of the African Children's Charter and ensure the existence of functional institutions for protection of children's rights and implement the recommendations and decisions of the ACERWC.
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the ACERWC's Guiding Note on COVID-19 and its implication on Children's Rights and Welfare; and **RECOMMENDS** Member States to: establish child friendly information and communication procedures in the fight against Covid-19; ensure the continuity of every child's right to education, provisions of essential services and parental care and protection for all children in their territory; and guarantee that post COVID-19 national recovery plans embed the four cardinal principles of child rights at the center namely: survival, life and development, non-discrimination, best interests of the child and child participation.
6. **CONGRATULATES** the Democratic Republic of Congo for ratifying the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; and **URGES** Member States that have not yet ratified the African Children's Charter, to consider ratifying the Charter.
7. **APPRECIATES** State Parties which have submitted their reports on the implementation of the African Children's Charter; and **URGES** those which have not yet reported to the Committee to comply with their reporting obligations.
8. **ENCOURAGES** State Parties that have entered reservation on the provisions of the African Children's Charter to consider withdrawing the same.

9. **APPRECIATES** the Republic of Kenya for submitting its Periodic Report on the implementation of the African Children's Charter, and **ENCOURAGES** the same to work towards the full implementation of the ACERWC's Concluding Observations and Recommendations.
10. **ADOPTS** the theme for the Day of the African Child (DAC) 2022 to be on: **Eliminating Harmful Practices Affecting Children: Progress on Policy and Practice since 2013'** and **REQUESTS** Member States to commemorate the DAC and report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee.
11. **TAKES NOTE** of the ACERWC's report on the assessment of the status of implementation of Africa's Agenda for Children (Agenda 2040); and **ENCOURAGES** Member States to work towards full implementation of the Aspirations within Agenda 2040.
12. **TAKES NOTE** of the ACERWC's General Comment on Article 22 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child regarding Children in situations of Conflicts, tension and strife, and **ENCOURAGES** Member States to make use of it as a tool for normative guidance.
13. **TAKES NOTE** of the ACERWC's assessment on the responses of the African Union and its mechanisms to matters of children in conflict situation, and **ENCOURAGES** the AUC, the APSA pillars and mechanisms to implement the recommendations, and ensure integration of child protection within their policies and activities.
14. **TAKES NOTE** of the establishment of the ACERWC's Working Groups on the implementation of the decisions; Working Group on children's rights and climate change; Working Group on children's rights and business; and Working Group on children with disability; and **ENCOURAGES** Member States to support and cooperate with the mandate and activities of these Offices.
15. **CONGRATULATES** the Kingdom of Lesotho and the AUC for signing the host agreement and ensuring the relocation of the Secretariat of the ACERWC.
16. **ENCOURAGES** the host Country to continue providing the required support pursuant to the host agreement; and **CALLS ON** the AUC to finalize the recruitment of staff and transfer of resources for the smooth operation of the newly established Office in Maseru, the Kingdom of Lesotho.